

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/809,215
Reply to Office Action dated December 15, 2004

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. The Specification is hereby amended.

The title of the invention was objected to for not being descriptive. The title is amended to reflect the suggestion of the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration of the title is requested.

The specification was objected to for an informality. The specification is amended to reflect the suggestion of the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration of the specification is requested.

Applicants note that the previous amendments were not made to overcome an art based rejection. Therefore, such amendments should not be construed in a limiting manner.

Claims 1, 5, and 9 were rejected as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art of Figures 13-19 in view of Song (US 2003/0234432). Applicants traverse this rejection. This rejection is moot per the enclosed verified translation of the priority application of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-096245. The Japanese application was filed March 31, 2003, which is before the June 18, 2003 effective prior art date of Song. As the Admitted Prior Art does not suggest the features of claim 1 by itself, as recognized in the rejection, the rejection should be withdrawn. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of the rejection as applied to the rejected claims. Favorable reconsideration of claims 1, 5, and 9 is requested.

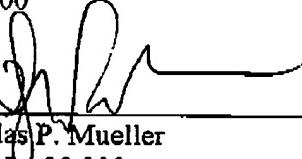
Applicants request that claims 10-13 be reinstated for allowance with claims 1-9.

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In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)371-5237.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

By 
Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300

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DPM:mfe